

Listing of Claims

1. – 19. (canceled)
20. (previously presented) An input device, comprising:
a base member; and
an integral top member cooperating with the base member to form a housing of the input device that encases internal components of the input device, the integral top member moving relative to the base member to provide a clicking action, the integral top member being movably coupled to the base member, the integral top member being capable of moving between a first position, placing the integral top member away from the base member and a second position, placing the integral top member towards the base member.
21. (previously presented) The input device as recited in claim 20 wherein the internal components include electronics associated with moving a cursor on a display.
22. (previously presented) The input device as recited in claim 20 wherein the base member is configured to make moving contact with a surface.
23. (canceled)
24. (canceled)
25. (previously presented) The input device as recited in claim 20 wherein the clicking action is implemented by moving the integral top member to the second position.
26. (previously presented) The input device as recited in claim 20 further including a biasing spring pad for biasing the integral top member in the first position.
27. (previously presented) The input device as recited in claim 20 wherein the integral top member is pivotally coupled to the base member.

28. (previously presented) The input device as recited in claim 27 wherein the integral top member includes a pair of pivots, and wherein the base member includes a pair of snap mechanisms that mate with the pair of pivots.

29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented) The input device as recited in claim 20 wherein an electronic switch is coupled to the base member, and wherein the integral top member includes an elongated member for engaging the electronic switch.

31. (previously presented) The input device as recited in claim 20 wherein the integral top member has no separate mechanical buttons disposed thereon.

32. (Currently Amended) A handheld computer mouse having a mouse housing for containing mouse electronics, the handheld computer mouse comprising:
a bottom member configured to make moving contact with a surface;
a top member mechanically coupled with the base member to form the mouse housing and to encase said mouse electronics, the mouse housing being configured to be grasped and manipulated by a hand of a user, the top member defining the entire top surface of the mouse housing, the top member moving relative to the bottom member between a first position, placing the top member away from the bottom member and a second position, placing the top member towards the bottom member, so as to implement a clicking action, the entire top member serving as a movable button for implementing the clicking action; and
an electronic switch disposed inside the mouse housing, the electronic switch being activated by said clicking action so as to perform an onscreen action.

33. (previously presented) The computer mouse as recited in claim 32 further comprising a mechanism for generating cursor control signals, the mechanism being carried by the bottom member.

34. (previously presented) The computer mouse as recited in claim 32 wherein the mechanism is a trackball or optical electronics.

35. (canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A handheld computer mouse ~~An input device~~, comprising:
a base member; and
a top member cooperating with the base member to form a housing of the input device that substantially encloses internal components of the input device, the top member defining the entire top surface of the housing and being configured for placement inside a user's hand, the top member moving relative to the base member to provide a clicking action, the entire top member serving as a button for actuating an internal electronic switch configured to register the clicking action as an input to the electronics of the input device.
37. (previously presented) The input device as recited in claim 36 wherein the top member is a single piece having no separate mechanical buttons disposed thereon.
38. (canceled)
39. (previously presented) The input device as recited in claim 20 wherein the integral top member forms the entire top portion of the housing.
40. (canceled)
41. (canceled)
42. (previously presented) A computer mouse having a mouse housing for containing electronics that generates cursor control signals, the mouse housing comprising:
a base member configured to make moving contact with a surface;
an integral top member mechanically coupled to the base member to encase the electronics, the integral top member and the base member being coupled and engaged in a manner that allows the integral top member to serve as a button for activating an internal electronic switch to register palm clicking as an input to the electronics.
43. (New) The input device as recited in claim 28 wherein the pivot and snap mechanisms are in an opposed relationship in the back of the input device, the pivot and snap mechanisms providing an axis around which the integral top member rotates during the clicking action.

44. (New) The input device as recited in claim 20 wherein the integral top member is configured for placement inside a user's hand, at least a back portion of the integral top member having an external contour that substantially conforms to the contour of the palm-side surface of the hand.

45. (New) The input device as recited in claim 21 wherein the input device is configured as a handheld mouse, and wherein the base member carries a mechanism for generating cursor control signals when the input device in the form of a handheld mouse is moved about a surface via a user's hand.

46. (New) The input device as recited in claim 45 wherein the mechanism is a trackball.

47. (New) The input device as recited in claim 45 wherein the mechanism is an optical sensing circuit.